

INITIAL CERTIFICATION-FAMILY LAW

I. Legal Education. List schools attended, dates of attendance, and degree awarded.

II. Prior Certification Applications. If applicable, list any organization in which you are/were certified as a legal specialist and the dates of certification. Also, indicate the dates and field of law of any former certifications in Arizona.

III. On separate sheets of paper, provide the following information:

- A. Record of Discipline.** A discipline check will be conducted on every applicant. Please list any disciplinary actions taken against you in any state, jurisdiction, or organization. In addition, list all instances of discipline in which the sanction imposed was censure or greater, or an informal reprimand in which the disciplinary record was public, pursuant to Rule 70, Ariz.R.Sup.Ct. Should any such disciplinary actions be taken against you after submission of this application, a supplement must be filed by you detailing said disciplinary action(s). A record of discipline or failure to disclose the same may constitute grounds for denial of an application for certification.
- B. Employment History.** Beginning with your most recent employment, list a complete statement of your employment since admission to the practice of law. Include the dates of employment, employer's name and address, and a brief summary of the nature of the work performed.
- C. References.** List the names and addresses of at least five attorneys who practice in the field of family law and/or judges before whom you have appeared, familiar with your practice, and not including current partners or associates. Please be advised that the Advisory Commission will also select at least five additional references from information submitted in your application. The references will be requested to provide written comments concerning your knowledge, skill, thoroughness, preparation, effectiveness and judgment in family law as well as your ethics and professionalism. Do not submit lawyers serving on the Board of Legal Specialization or on the Family Law Advisory Commission as references. A list of all lawyers serving in these capacities can be found at www.azbar.org/membership/legalspecialization. The Board of Legal Specialization shall treat the content of statements of reference confidentially.

An applicant must demonstrate honesty, integrity, and professionalism as defined by the Lawyer's Creed of Professionalism of the State Bar of Arizona, and a high degree of competence in the practice of Family Law. The required degree of competence is substantially higher than that possessed by a general practitioner who regularly handles Family Law matters. For purposes of demonstrating a "high degree of competence" an applicant shall meet the standards set forth in section II.B.4.a through II.B.4.d of the Standards for Certification of Lawyers Specializing in Family Law.

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D. Malpractice Actions.

1. List all malpractice actions which have been filed and are presently pending against you personally, in which your actions are alleged to have constituted malpractice, including the title of the case, case number, county in which the case is filed, name and address of counsel for plaintiff. Further, should any proceedings arise during the pendency of this application, you must supplement this application with the information required herein for the newly arisen matter.
2. List all malpractice claims, whether or not any malpractice action has been filed. List the name of the person alleging the malpractice, and the name and address of counsel representing that person, if any.
3. List all malpractice claims, whether or not any malpractice action was filed, in which applicant has paid a settlement in excess of \$5000.00. List the name of the person alleging the malpractice, and the name and address of any counsel representing that person.
4. List all malpractice actions in which a judgment has been entered against applicant in excess of \$5000.00, and list the title of the case, case number, county in which the case was filed, name of trial judge, and name and address of counsel for plaintiff.

E. Substantial Involvement in Family Law. Pursuant to the Standards for Certification of Lawyers Specializing in Family Law, an applicant must have been admitted to the practice of law continuously for a minimum of seven years. During five of those years, the applicant must have been engaged in the practice of Family Law within the State of Arizona, two years of which must have been immediately preceding the application. During each of such five years, the applicant must have engaged in legal services (as defined in Section I of the Rules and Regulations of BLS) in the field of Family Law equivalent to at least 70% of a full-time practice.

To demonstrate substantial involvement, each applicant must complete sections 1, 2, and 3 below. For definitions of settlement agreement, trial or hearing, refer to Section 11. B. 3 of the Standards for Certification of Lawyers Specializing in Family Law.

1. Percentage of time devoted to Family Law. On a separate sheet of paper, list the percentage of time you have devoted in the last five years to matters in which issues of domestic relations, as defined in Section 11.B.3.b of the Standards for Certification for Lawyers Specializing in Family Law, were significant factors.

Of the listed categories of hearings and negotiated settlements that follow, specify at least 10 cases in which you were lead attorney, including at least one case each from at least five of the categories listed below.

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Category	Description
i.	A matter that involves issues of valuation of a business or professional practice or other intangible asset in regard to which an expert accountant or business appraiser or other expert submits a written valuation or testifies at deposition or in a hearing or trial or attends a mediation or negotiation;
ii.	A matter that involves issues of co-mingling of funds in regard to which an accountant or other expert traces funds and submits a written report or testifies at deposition or in a hearing or trial or attends a mediation or negotiation;
iii.	A matter that involves issues of excessive, abnormal, or fraudulent disposition of community funds or assets (community waste) in regard to which an accountant or other expert traces funds or assets and submits a written report or testifies at deposition or in a trial or hearing or attends a mediation or negotiation;
iv.	A matter in which a real estate appraiser submits a written appraisal;
v.	A matter that involves issues of spousal maintenance or child support in which a physician or vocational or labor market or rehabilitation expert or other expert submits a written report regarding a party's ability to earn income or testifies at deposition or in a hearing or trial or attends a mediation or negotiation;
vi.	A matter that involves issues of child custody or parenting time in which a written child custody or parenting time evaluation is submitted or a mental health professional or other expert meets with children or parents, or attends mediation or negotiation, or otherwise assists in attempting resolution;
vii.	A matter that involves issues of valuation of a retirement plan, in regard to which an actuary or other expert submits a written report or testifies at deposition or in a trial or hearing or attends mediation or negotiation;
viii.	A matter that involves issues of community enhancement of the value of a separate business, professional practice, or real estate, in which an expert accountant or appraiser submits a written report regarding such issues or testifies at deposition or in a hearing or trial or attends mediation or negotiation;
ix.	A matter involving inter-state jurisdiction issues, either as to long-arm personal jurisdiction or as to subject matter jurisdiction;
x.	A special action or appeal to the Court of Appeals or Supreme Court;
xi.	A matter that is settled by alternate dispute resolution, which means mediation involving the participation of counsel or arbitration and does not include mediation through an agency of the court or settlement at a pre-trial conference or other proceeding at the court;

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Category	Description
xii.	A matter in which the applicant serves as mediator or arbitrator;
xiii.	A matter in which the applicant serves as a court advisor, child's attorney, best interest attorney, or parenting coordinator;
xiv.	A matter arising under the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction;
xv.	A matter involving allegations of child sexual abuse in which an expert submits a written report or testifies at a deposition or in a hearing or trial or attends a mediation or negotiation.

Providing Family Law service as defined in Section III(A)(2)(a)-(k) for at least 10 hours within the most recent two years prior to the application, which regardless of the number of hours of service, may be credited as no more than one breadth matter.

One matter cannot fulfill more than one category of the specified case requirement at the Superior Court level. One matter cannot fulfill more than one category of the specified case requirement at the appellate level (for example, if there is an interlocutory special action in the Court of Appeals and then after the decree, there is an appeal to the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court accepts review of the decision in that appeal, those proceedings at the appellate level can only be counted as one case). The same matter can fulfill one of the categories II.B.3.b.i through II.B.3.b.xvi of the specified case requirement at the Superior Court level and also fulfill category ii.b.3.b.x at the appellate court level.

In at least three of the cases submitted as specified cases, you must have been lead attorney in a trial or hearing (as defined in Standard II.B.3.a or an oral argument before the Court of Appeals or Supreme Court, at which one of the issues litigated was the issue for which the case is submitted as a specified case.

- Hearings. List all hearings within the past 24 months in which you acted as lead counsel. A hearing includes Orders to Show Cause, Orders of Protection and trials or other evidentiary hearings whereby one or more issues were decided by the court. If the number of hearings listed is less than 30, list additional such hearings in which you acted as lead counsel up to a total of not less than 30 within the past five years. If the case is submitted as a "specified case" pursuant the categories listed above, identify it with the phrase "specified case" and state the applicable category from Section II.B.3.b of the Standards of Certification for Lawyers Specializing in Family Law that the case is submitted to satisfy. Please include the following information, remembering to indicate which of the cases is submitted to satisfy the "specified case" requirement:

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Title of Case:
Case Number:
Nature of Hearing (trial, OSC, TRO, etc.):
Year of Hearing:
Judge or Commissioner:
County:
Opposing Counsel's Name and Address:
Co-Counsel if any:
If Co-counsel, describe your role in the hearing:

For appellate cases, the information must include:

Name and Division Number of Court:
Names of Judges or Justices on panel:
Whether you orally argued:
Date of the Decision or Opinion:
Citation of any Published Opinion:

3. Agreements. List all negotiated settlement agreements, post or pre-nuptial agreements, paternity agreements or stipulated decrees in the past 24 months in which you were lead counsel. If the number of agreements listed is less than 45, list additional such agreements in which you were lead counsel up to a total of not less than 45 within the past 5 years. If the case is submitted as a specified case" pursuant the categories listed above, identify it with the phrase 'specified case' and state the applicable category from Section II.B.3.b of the Standards of Certification for Lawyers Specializing in Family Law that the case is submitted to satisfy. Please include the following information, remembering to indicate which of the cases is submitted to satisfy the 'specified cases' requirement:

Title of Case:
Case Number:
Opposing Counsel's Name and Address:
County:
Year of Agreement:
Co-Counsel, if any:
If Co-counsel, describe your role:

For appellate cases, the information must include:

Name and Division Number of Court:
Names of Judges or Justices on panel:
Whether you orally argued:
Date of the Decision or Opinion:
Citation of any Published Opinion:

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4. Continuing Legal Education Requirements. Applicants for certification shall demonstrate that during the five years prior to their applications they completed at least 50 hours of continuing legal education in Family Law among the minimum 15 hours of continuing legal education per year (75 hours over five years) required by the State Bar of Arizona. Provide a list of the continuing legal education programs/seminars attended during the preceding five years, including the name, date, and hours earned from attending each program.

5. Waiver. The FLAC may recommend waiver of any requirement listed in the Standards for Certification of Lawyers Specializing in Family Law, if circumstances so warrant. Should you wish to request a waiver of a requirement, please identify the requirement to be waived and a detailed explanation of all the facts and circumstances which you believe justify waiving said requirement.

THIS APPLICATION CONTINUES
ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE

APPLICATION AGREEMENT

Read and initial each of the following statements and sign below:

a. _____ I agree to abide by all Rules and Regulations of the Arizona Board of Legal Specialization as amended from time to time, to pay all fees required by the Board of Legal Specialization as due, and to furnish to the Board such information as may be required from time to time to ascertain my entitlement to certification.

b. _____ I certify that I am an active member in good standing of the State Bar of Arizona and that I continue to engage in legal service (as defined in the Rules and Regulations of the Arizona Board of Legal Specialization), and that I annually devote not less than 70% of a full-time practice to Family Law, as defined in the Standards for Certification for Lawyers Specializing in Family Law.

c. _____ Pursuant to Rule 70, Ariz.R.Sup.Ct., I hereby waive confidentiality of any disciplinary proceeding initiated against me by the State Bar of Arizona after January 1, 1992, or which may be initiated against me during the pendency of my application. I understand and agree, to the extent permitted under Rule 70, Ariz.R.Sup.Ct., that my disciplinary records may be requested from the Lawyer Regulations Records Manager (or representative) or Disciplinary Clerk. Further, if any formal matters are pending against me, or any develop, I will advise the Board.

d. _____ I agree to advise the Board of Legal Specialization, from the date of filing this current application throughout the next approved five-year period of certification, of any disciplinary action taken against me in any state, jurisdiction, or organization. I will advise of all instances of discipline in which the sanction imposed was censure or greater, or an informal reprimand in which the disciplinary record was public. Affirmative duty to advise of pending matters or matters initiated during the pendency of the application.

e. _____ I authorize all persons, firms, officers, corporations, organizations, associations (including Bar Associations of other jurisdictions), State or Federal agencies and institutions to furnish to the Board of Legal Specialization or any of its authorized representatives, all relevant documents, records or other information that may be requested in the investigation of this application or in any investigation of my continuing satisfaction of the Standards for Certification.

f. _____ I authorize the Board of Legal Specialization to consult with any persons who may have information relating to my professional qualifications, credentials or character, ethics, behavior, or any other matter reasonably bearing on the criteria for initial and continued certification. I further agree that all information received by the Board shall be treated confidentially and that I have no right of access to information received by the Board from third parties. I specifically waive any right to. Review any reference or other evaluations made to the Board, whether solicited by me or the Board. In addition, I agree not to seek discovery of such references and evaluations, formally or informally, in any legal proceeding or otherwise.

g. _____ I release, discharge and exonerate the State Bar of Arizona, its officers, directors, staff, agents, employees and representatives, and any person furnishing information and evaluations to the Board of Legal Specialization, from any and all liability of every nature and kind arising from the investigation and evaluation of my application or my continued satisfaction of the Standards for Certification.

I certify my application is true or true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that failure to make a truthful disclosure of any material fact or item of information required may result in the denial of my application, revocation of my certificate of specialization if granted, or disciplinary action by the State Bar of Arizona.

Signature of Applicant

Date